

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of connecting together at least two workpieces using a blind rivet comprising the steps of

positioning the at least two workpieces in abutment;

positioning a blind side end face of a blind rivet against a first one of said workpieces and applying a biasing force thereto to maintain said rivet in engagement with said workpiece;

rotating said rivet at a speed whilst maintaining said biasing force thereon;

~~utilising~~ utilizing said biasing force to drive said rotating blind rivet through the resultant heat weakened workpieces;

stopping rotation of said inserted rivet and setting said blind rivet to compress the workpieces between a deformed portion of the rivet body and a flange portion.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said rivet is rotated at a speed of at least 200rpm.

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1 wherein said biasing force is determined to be less than that required to force the blind rivet through the non-weakened workpiece.

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said biasing force is between *2kN* and *10kN*.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said biasing force is between $4kN$ and $8kN$.
6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said rivet is rotated at a speed of between 300rpm and 1000rpm.
7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 using a blind rivet wherein said blind side end face comprises an abrasive surface.
8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 using a blind rivet having a blind side end face with a workpiece engaging portion having a contact area less than the cross sectional area of the rivet.
9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 8 using a blind rivet with a tapered or frusto-conical blind side end face.
10. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the step of rotating and setting the blind rivet is carried out using the same tool.

11. (currently amended) A blind rivet for use in the method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 having a parabolically curved blind side end face disposed co-axially with a longitudinal axis of said rivet.

12. (currently amended) A blind rivet for use in the method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 having a frusto-conical blind side end face disposed co-axially with a longitudinal axis of said rivet.

13. (original) A blind rivet as claimed in claim 12 having an elongate cylindrical projection extending co-axially from said frusto-conical end face.

14. (currently amended) A blind rivet as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11 comprising an open ended rivet body and wherein said blind side end face is formed on a mandrel head extending beyond said rivet body.

15. (currently amended) A blind rivet as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11 comprising a closed end blind rivet wherein said blind side end face is formed on said closed end of said rivet body.

16. (currently amended) A blind rivet as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11 wherein said blind side end face is formed with an abrasive surface.

17. (original) A blind rivet as claimed in claim 16 wherein said abrasive surface comprises a coating of abrasive material.

18. (original) A blind rivet comprising a workpiece engaging blind side end face, wherein said end face is provided with an abrasive surface.

19. (cancelled)